THE ETERNALS
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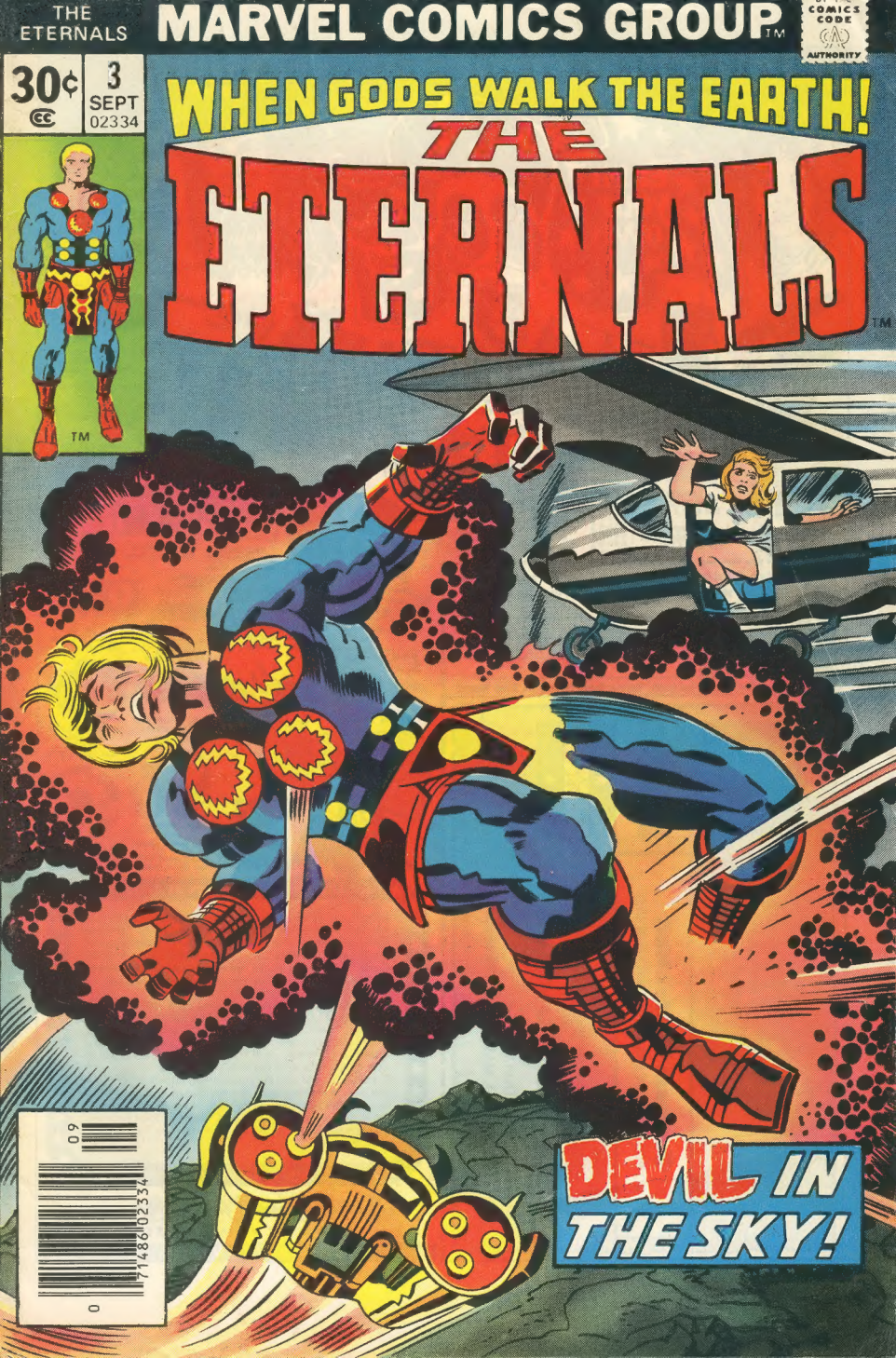
# WHEN GODS WALK THE EARTH!

# THE ETERNALS™



Stan Lee PRESENTS: **THE ETERNALS!**™

TY 230

IN THIS MAGAZINE, THE HIDDEN CHAPTERS IN THE HISTORY OF MAN ARE QUICKLY BEING REVEALED... UNTOUCHED FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS, A LARGE CRYPT IN AN INCA RUIN HAS DISCHARGED A LIVING FLIGHT CREW... FOR A SPACECRAFT HAS APPEARED -- AND THIS IS THEIR CENTURY TO SERVICE THE

# The DEVIL in NEW YORK!

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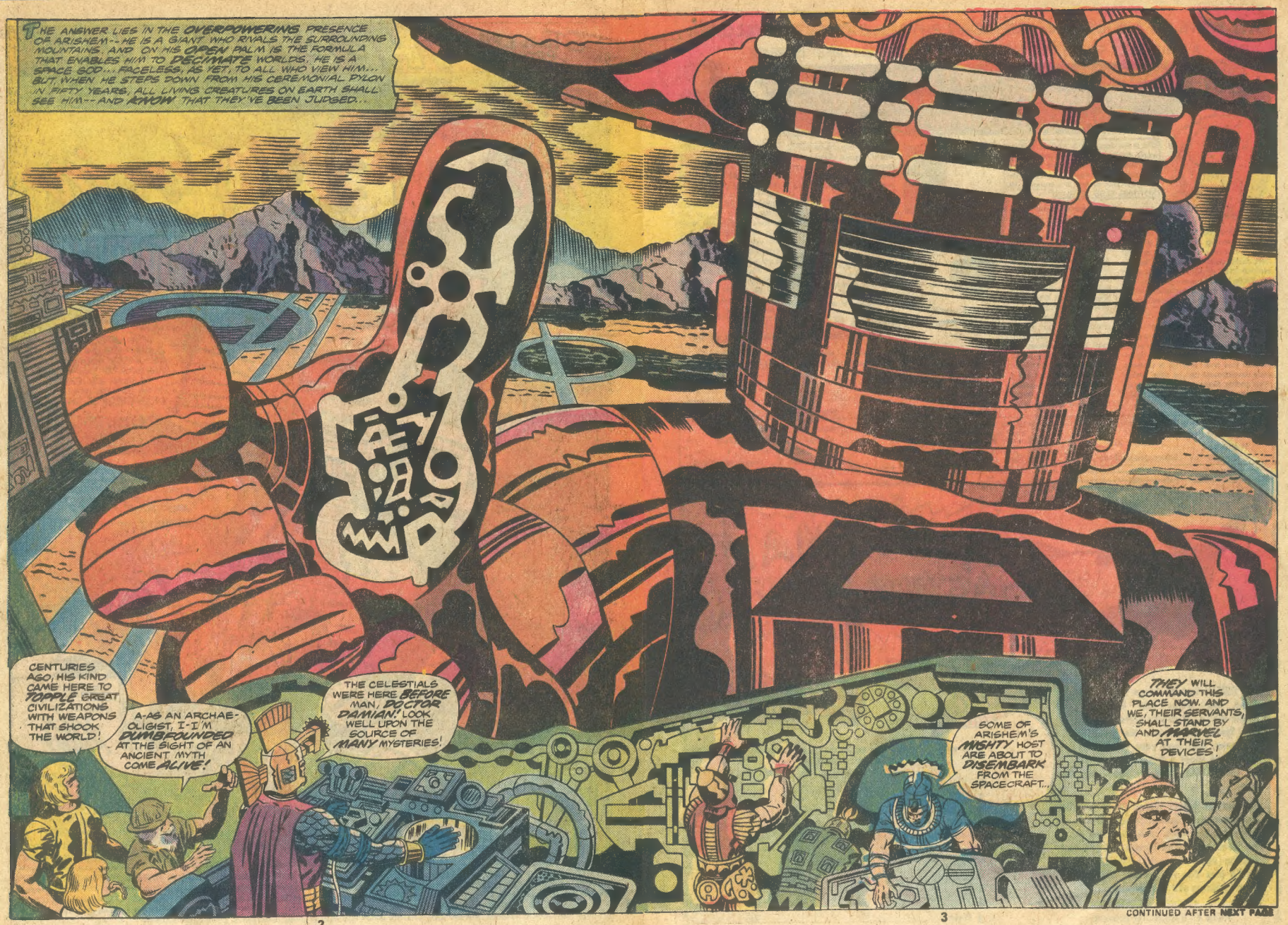






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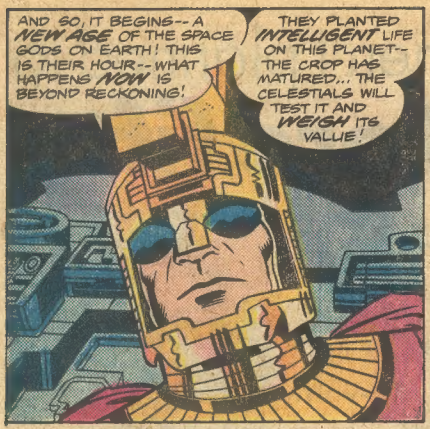
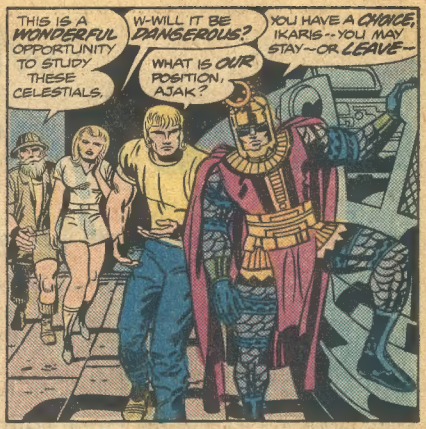
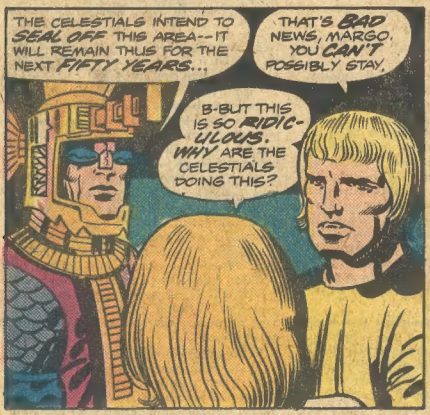
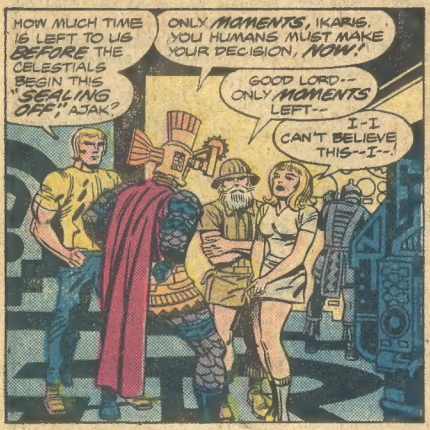

AND SO, IT BEGINS--A NEW AGE OF THE SPACE GODS ON EARTH! THIS IS THEIR HOUR--WHAT HAPPENS NOW IS BEYOND RECKONING!
THEY PLANTED INTELLIGENT LIFE ON THIS PLANET--THE CROP HAS MATURED... THE CELESTIALS WILL TEST IT AND WEIGH ITS VALUE!


THIS IS A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY THESE CELESTIALS.
W-WILL IT BE DANGEROUS?
WHAT IS OUR POSITION, AJAK?
YOU HAVE A CHOICE, IKARIS--YOU MAY STAY--OR LEAVE--


THE CELESTIALS INTEND TO SEAL OFF THIS AREA--IT WILL REMAIN THUS FOR THE NEXT FIFTY YEARS...
THAT'S BAD NEWS, MARGO. YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY STAY.
B-BUT THIS IS SO RIDICULOUS. WHY ARE THE CELESTIALS DOING THIS?

THERE'S NO WAY TO QUESTION THE CELESTIALS, CHILD! WHAT THEY DECIDE TO DO--THEY WILL DO--IF WE LEAVE, A TREASURE HOUSE OF KNOWLEDGE WILL BE LOST TO US...
...AND IF WE STAY, WE'LL BE SHUT IN THIS PLACE FOR A HALF CENTURY--AGING--PERHAPS DYING.


HOW MUCH TIME IS LEFT TO US BEFORE THE CELESTIALS BEGIN THIS "SEALING OFF," AJAK?
ONLY MOMENTS, IKARIS. YOU HUMANS MUST MAKE YOUR DECISION, NOW!
GOOD LORD--ONLY MOMENTS LEFT--
I-I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS--I--!

RRRRMMMMMM!
HUSH, MARGO--WHAT'S THAT SOUND--?
ARISHEM'S HOST IS DESCENDING. YOUR TIME IS ALMOST GONE...
YOU CAN'T STAY, MARGO! YOU'LL BE OLD WHEN THE SEAL IS LIFTED...COME WITH ME!

THE OMINOUS SOUND GROWS LOUDER-- AND DECISION BECOMES THE MOST AGONIZING EFFORT OF THE HUMAN WILL...

RRRRMMM!

HEED THE WORD OF IKARIS, HUMANS. HE AND I ARE ETERNALS, WE ARE AGELESS-- WE CAN WEATHER TIME WITHOUT EFFECT--BUT, YOU--!

--GO NOW! GO NOW!

MARGO! LISTEN TO ME! ALL I'VE EVER HOPED TO FIND IS HERE-- I MUST STAY!

WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY IS THAT YOU CAN'T SACRIFICE YOUR YOUTH FOR MY DREAMS!

DAD--!

YOUR FATHER HAS MADE HIS CHOICE, MARGO--BUT, YOU'VE HESITATED TOO LONG--I'M DECIDING FOR YOU!--WE'RE LEAVING!

IKARIS SEIZES THE GIRL AND TUCKS HER BENEATH HIS BRAWNY ARM--THEN--!

WELL DONE, IKARIS-- WE'LL MEET AGAIN-- IN FIFTY YEARS...

GOOD BYE, MARGO... BE HAPPY, CHILD!

I'LL SEE THAT SHE REMAINS SAFE, SIR!

LET ME GO!!

DAD! DAD!!

WWMMMMM!!

TIME HAS RUN OUT... AS IKARIS BOLTS FROM THE INCA RUIN WITH HIS BURDEN, GREAT, MOVING SHADOWS CAN BE SEEN ACROSS THE PLATEAU...

THE HOST IS AT WORK! THE JOB OF CLOSING THE AREA HAS BEGUN!

PUT ME DOWN! I-I MAY NEVER SEE MY FATHER AGAIN!

THE GIANT ARISHEM STANDS SILENT ON THE PYLON AS HIS HOST GLIDES INTO POSITION...

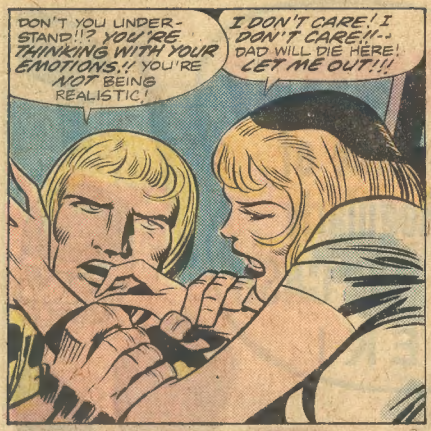
IKARIS! PLEASE! I MUST STAY!

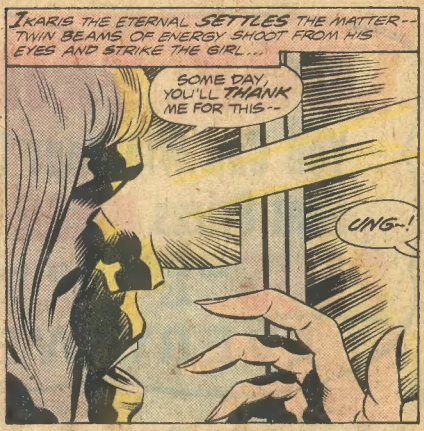
IT'S TOO LATE FOR WORDS, MARGO. THE EXPEDITION PLANE STANDS READY TO FLY US OUT!

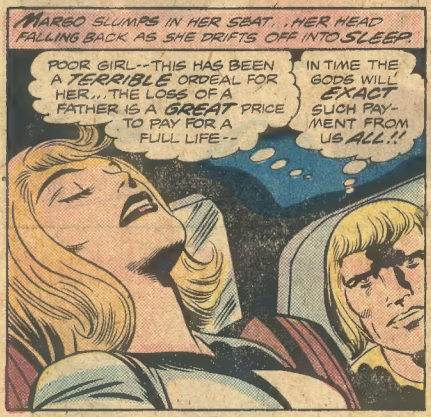
IKARIS ACTS WITH LIGHTNING-LIKE SPEED! HE JAMS MARGO INTO THE LIGHT PLANE DESPITE HER STRUGGLE AND PROTEST!!

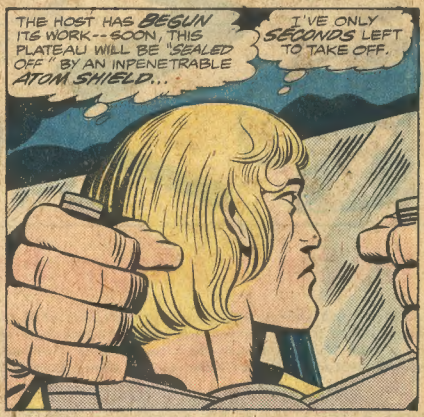
ANIMAL! ANIMAL! YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING!

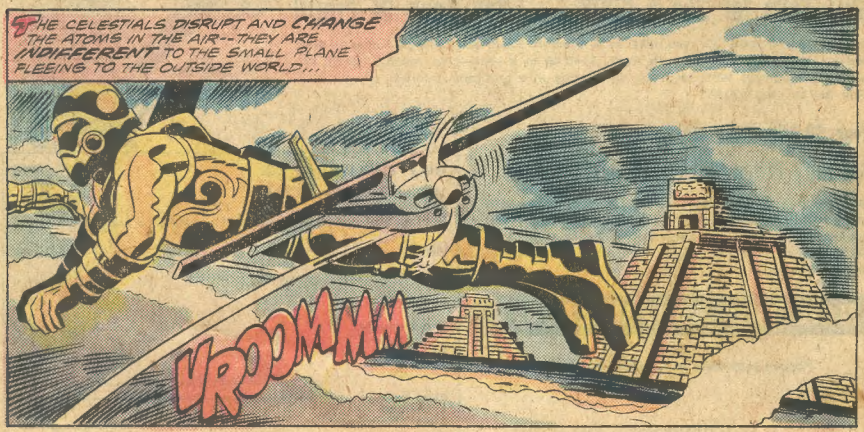
GET IN-- AND STOP FIGHTING ME!


DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND!? YOU'RE THINKING WITH YOUR EMOTIONS!! YOU'RE NOT BEING REALISTIC!
I DON'T CARE! I DON'T CARE!!-- DAD WILL DIE HERE! LET ME OUT!!!


IKARIS THE ETERNAL SETTLES THE MATTER-- TWIN BEAMS OF ENERGY SHOOT FROM HIS EYES AND STRIKE THE GIRL...
SOME DAY, YOU'LL THANK ME FOR THIS--
UNG--!


MARGO SLUMPS IN HER SEAT, HER HEAD FALLING BACK AS SHE DRIFTS OFF INTO SLEEP.
POOR GIRL--THIS HAS BEEN A TERRIBLE ORDEAL FOR HER... THE LOSS OF A FATHER IS A GREAT PRICE TO PAY FOR A FULL LIFE--
IN TIME THE GODS WILL EXACT SUCH PAYMENT FROM US ALL!!


THE HOST HAS BEGUN ITS WORK--SOON, THIS PLATEAU WILL BE "SEALED OFF" BY AN INPENETRABLE ATOM SHIELD...
I'VE ONLY SECONDS LEFT TO TAKE OFF.

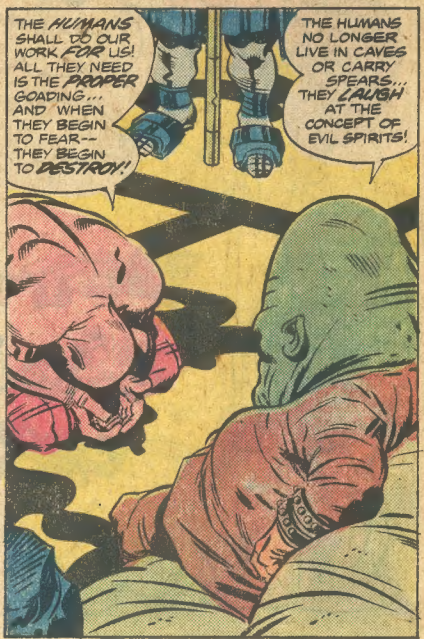

THE CELESTIALS DISRUPT AND CHANGE THE ATOMS IN THE AIR--THEY ARE INDIFFERENT TO THE SMALL PLANE FLEEING TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD...
VROOMMM

MEANWHILE, IN THE UNDERSEA KINGDOM OF THE DEVIANTS, ANOTHER HIDDEN CHAPTER OF HISTORY UNFOLDS... THESE ARE CRUEL AND MISSHAPEN PEOPLE WHO SHARE THE SAME, COMMON ANCESTOR WITH HUMANS AND ETERNALS.-LIKE IKARIS. ONCE, THESE DEVIANTS DARED TO CHALLENGE THE GODS AND LOST... NOW, LIKE THE GODS, THAT DREAM HAS BEEN RESURRECTED...
PUNISHMENT WON'T CHANGE HIM! KRO WILL BE A FOOL TO THE END!
YOU KNEW THAT THE GODS WERE RETURNING TO EARTH, KRO! YET YOU FAILED TO STOP THEM! THEY WILL SOON BE UPON US!
HMPH! WITH SUCH A WARLORD TO LEAD US, I PREDICT A GLOOMY FUTURE FOR OUR HOPES!
NOT SO! NOT SO! RELEASE ME--AND WE SHALL BEAT THE GODS--
(CACKLE) HE'S BOASTFUL AS EVER!! OUR RULING FAMILY HAS NEVER BEEN SHORT OF BRAG-GARTS!!
YET, KRO IS NOT WITHOUT CLEVERNESS AND SPIRIT! I SAY GIVE HIM HIS CHANCE! RELEASE HIM!
INCIDENTALLY, IF YOU'D LIKE MORE OF A FILL IN ON THE DEVIANTS, GET THE TWO PREVIOUS ISSUES AND SEE A STARTLING VIEW OF PRE-HISTORY!--YOUR PAL J.K.

AT A SILENT COMMAND FROM GREAT TODE, THE RULER, TWO GUARDS UNCLAMP KRO FROM THE TORMENT MACHINE...
YOU'VE DONE YOUR PENANCE, KRO... COME FORTH AND GROVEL FOR AMNESTY!
KLIK!
KLIK!
I THANK YOU, SIRE!

SEE, HOW HE FEIGNS HUMILITY!
WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS, KRO?
TO DEFEAT THE GODS!

HAHAHAHAHA! A TALL ORDER, BRAGGART!
I WOULD HEAR MORE, KRO... I WOULD HEAR HOW THIS JOYOUS VICTORY OVER THE GODS MAY COME ABOUT...
YES, TELL US, O' GLORIOUS LEADER OF OUR FORCES...


THE HUMANS SHALL DO OUR WORK FOR US! ALL THEY NEED IS THE PROPER GOADING... AND WHEN THEY BEGIN TO FEAR-- THEY BEGIN TO DESTROY!
THE HUMANS NO LONGER LIVE IN CAVES OR CARRY SPEARS... THEY LAUGH AT THE CONCEPT OF EVIL SPIRITS!

KRO'S BOWED HEAD SLOWLY RISES--AND UPON IT ARE THE PRODUCTS OF HIS ABILITY TO MANIPULATE HIS OWN ATOMIC STRUCTURE...

THEY WILL NOT LAUGH AT THIS, GREAT TODE...

FOR, TO THIS VERY DAY, THIS IMAGE LINGERS LIKE A VIRUS IN THEIR BRAINS!

HAHAHAHAHA! GIVE THE HUMANS A REAL DEVIL AND THEY'LL DESTROY THE GALAXY TO BE RID OF HIM!

THE DEVIL! HAHA HA--

VERY CLEVER, KRO! THE HUMANS WILL SEE YOU--BUT THINK IT IS THE GODS! THEIR WAR SHALL BE OUR OPPORTUNITY. VERY GOOD--VERY GOOD--

AT THAT MOMENT, A SMALL PLANE HURDLES THE HIGH ANDES MOUNTAINS, WITH THE SMOOTHNESS OF A GLIDING CONDOR...

I'M AWAKE, IKARIS! I-I'LL RAISE NO FUSS--IF YOU RETURN ME TO MY FATHER!

THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE, MARGO...

YOUR FATHER IS WHERE HE WANTS TO BE--WITH AJAK AND THE CELESTIALS! HE WILL LIVE OUT HIS YEARS, UNDISTURBED AND HAPPY IN HIS WORK... WHEN HIS DAYS ARE DONE, HE WILL KNOW MORE THAN ANY OTHER HUMAN--

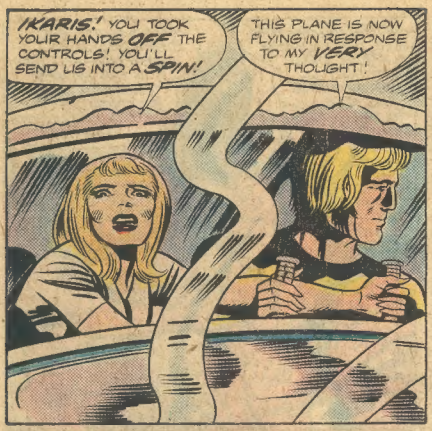
WHAT'S TO BECOME OF ME? WHAT WILL THE FUTURE BE LIKE--WITHOUT FATHER?

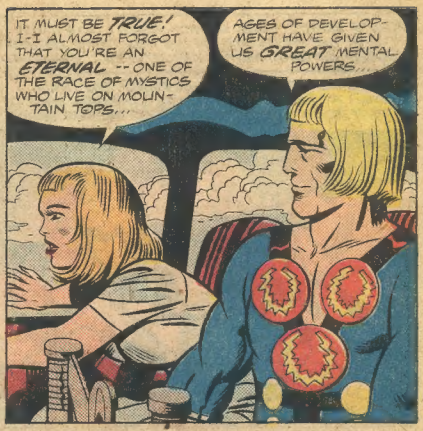
MARGO GLANCES DOWN AT THE MOUNTAINS BELOW... IN THE DISTANCE, A GIGANTIC WHITE HEMISPHERE COVERS THE PLACE OF THE GODS. IT GLOWS WITH A FINE RADIANCE--A NEW MYSTERY FOR THE WORLD TO SOLVE...

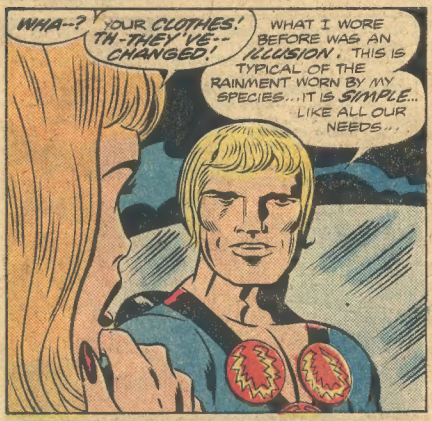
SUDDENLY, IKARIS TAKES THE PLANE TO THE LEVELS ABOVE THE CLOUDS--THE MOUNTAINS HAVE GIVEN WAY TO A KINGDOM OF WHITE, COTTON VAPORS...

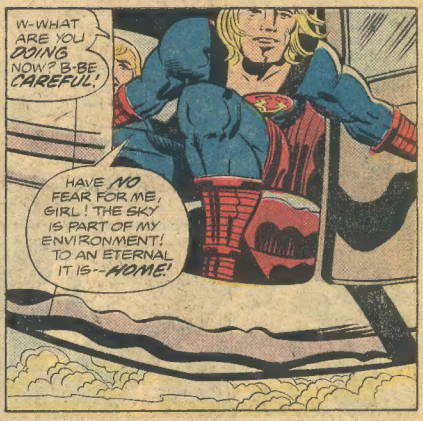
THIS SHOULD HELP, MARGO. THINGS LOOK MUCH BETTER UP HERE...

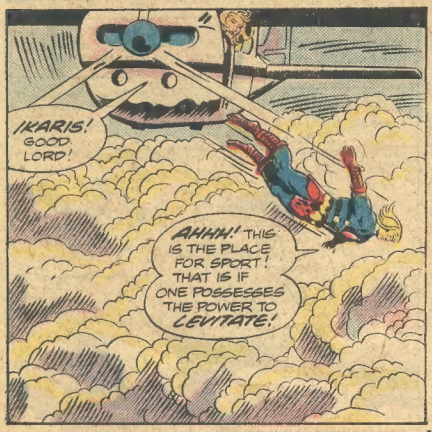
IT'S BEAUTIFUL--BUT NOT BEAUTIFUL ENOUGH TO HEAL MY WOUND...

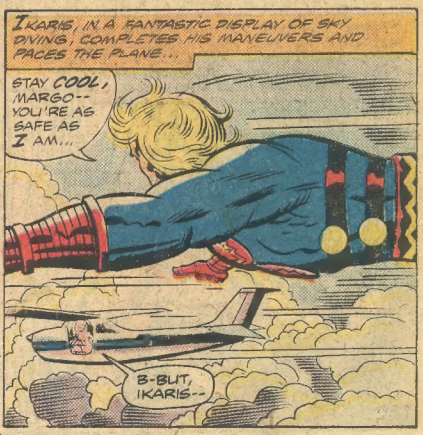

IKARIS! YOU TOOK YOUR HANDS OFF THE CONTROLS! YOU'LL SEND US INTO A SPIN!
THIS PLANE IS NOW FLYING IN RESPONSE TO MY VERY THOUGHT!

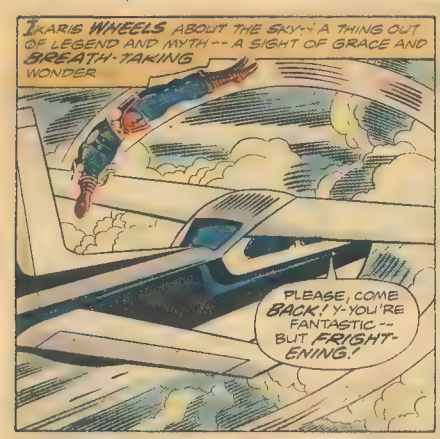

IT MUST BE TRUE! I-I ALMOST FORGOT THAT YOU'RE AN ETERNAL -- ONE OF THE RACE OF MYSTICS WHO LIVE ON MOUNTAIN TOPS...
AGES OF DEVELOPMENT HAVE GIVEN US GREAT MENTAL POWERS...

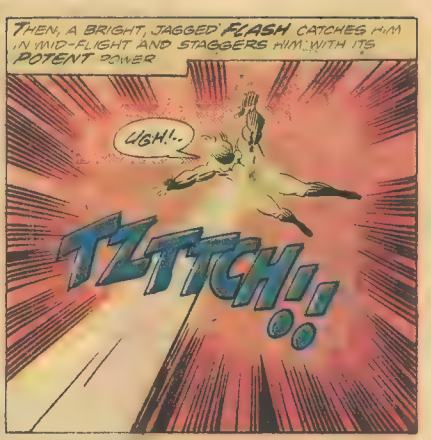

WHA--?
YOUR CLOTHES! TH-THEY'VE-- CHANGED!
WHAT I WORE BEFORE WAS AN ILLUSION. THIS IS TYPICAL OF THE RAINMENT WORN BY MY SPECIES...IT IS SIMPLE... LIKE ALL OUR NEEDS...

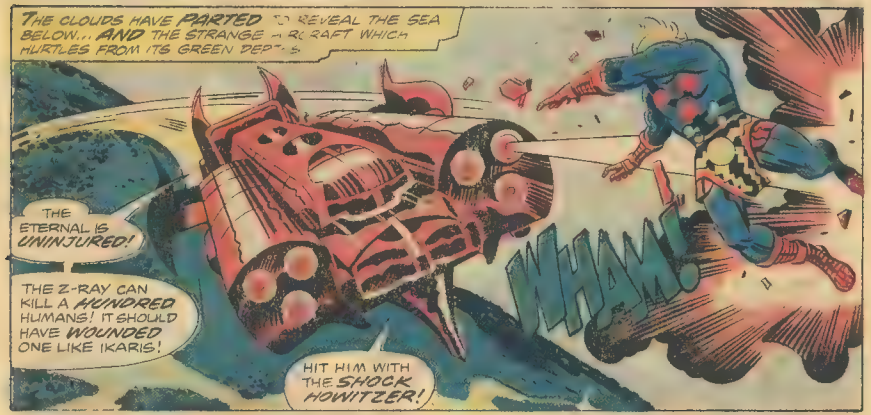

W-WHAT ARE YOU DOING NOW? B-BE CAREFUL!
HAVE NO FEAR FOR ME, GIRL! THE SKY IS PART OF MY ENVIRONMENT! TO AN ETERNAL IT IS--HOME!

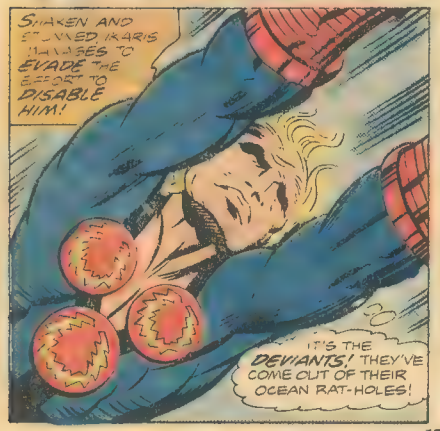

IKARIS! GOOD LORD!
AHHH! THIS IS THE PLACE FOR SPORT! THAT IS IF ONE POSSESSES THE POWER TO LEVITATE!

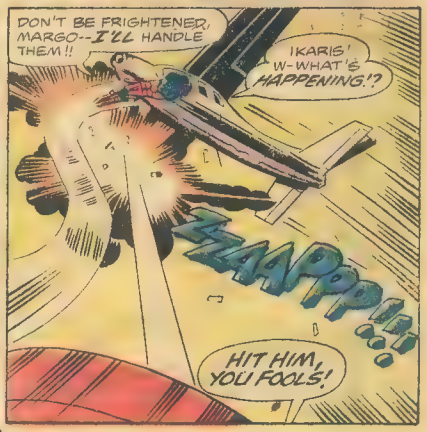

IKARIS, IN A FANTASTIC DISPLAY OF SKY DIVING, COMPLETES HIS MANEUVERS AND PACES THE PLANE...
STAY COOL, MARGO-- YOU'RE AS SAFE AS I AM...
B-BUT, IKARIS--

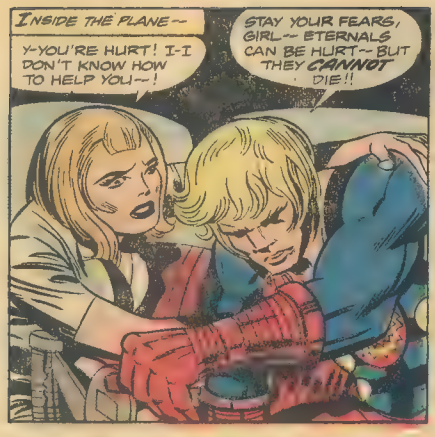

IKARIS WHEELS ABOUT THE SKY--A THING OUT OF LEGEND AND MYTH--A SIGHT OF GRACE AND BREATH-TAKING WONDER
PLEASE, COME BACK! Y-YOU'RE FANTASTIC--BUT FRIGHTENING!

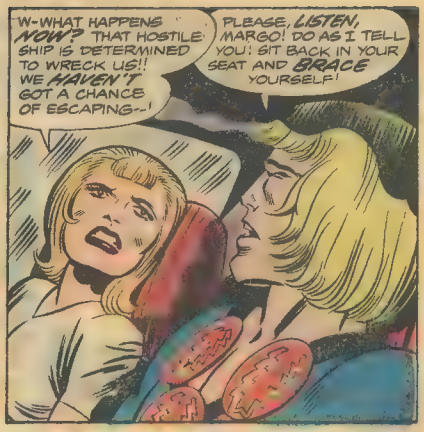

THEN, A BRIGHT, JAGGED FLASH CATCHES HIM IN MID-FLIGHT AND STAGGERS HIM WITH ITS POTENT POWER
UGH!..
TZTTCH!!


THE CLOUDS HAVE PARTED TO REVEAL THE SEA BELOW... AND THE STRANGE ROCKET RAFT WHICH HURTLES FROM ITS GREEN DEPTHS
THE ETERNAL IS UNINJURED!
THE Z-RAY CAN KILL A HUNDRED HUMANS! IT SHOULD HAVE WOUNDED ONE LIKE IKARIS!
HIT HIM WITH THE SHOCK HOWITZER!
WHAM!

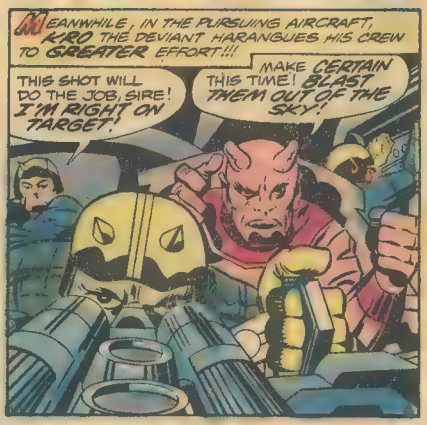

SHAKEN AND STUNNED IKARIS MANAGES TO EVADE THE EFFORT TO DISABLE HIM!
IT'S THE DEVIANTS! THEY'VE COME OUT OF THEIR OCEAN RAT-HOLES!

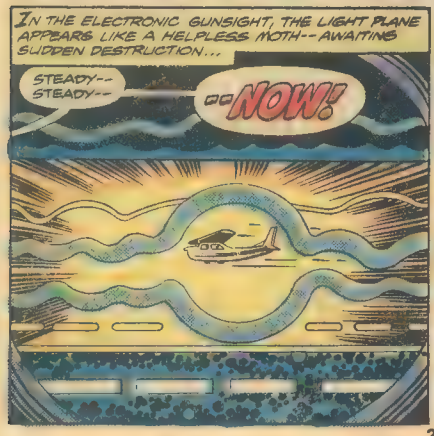

DON'T BE FRIGHTENED, MARGO--I'LL HANDLE THEM!!
IKARIS! W-WHAT'S HAPPENING!?
ZZAAPP!!!
HIT HIM, YOU FOOLS!

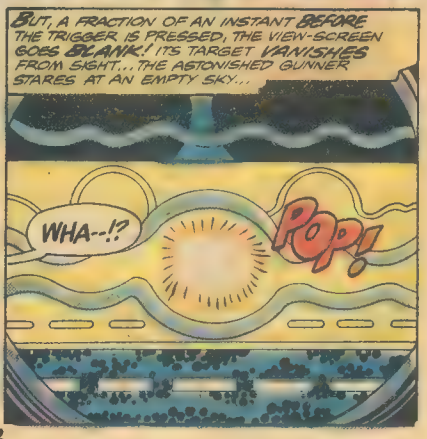

INSIDE THE PLANE--
Y-YOU'RE HURT! I-I DON'T KNOW HOW TO HELP YOU--!
STAY YOUR FEARS, GIRL-- ETERNALS CAN BE HURT-- BUT THEY CANNOT DIE!!


W-WHAT HAPPENS NOW? THAT HOSTILE SHIP IS DETERMINED TO WRECK US!! WE HAVEN'T GOT A CHANCE OF ESCAPING--!
PLEASE, LISTEN, MARGO! DO AS I TELL YOU: SIT BACK IN YOUR SEAT AND GRACE YOURSELF!

IKAR'S SHUTS HIS EYES AND BEGINS TO CONCENTRATE ON SOME UNFATHOMABLE THOUGHT... HIS BROW KNITS-- AND THE SKIN TIGHTENS ON HIS RUGGED FEATURES.


MEANWHILE, IN THE PURSUING AIRCRAFT, KRO THE DEVIANT HARANGUES HIS CREW TO GREATER EFFORT!!!
THIS SHOT WILL DO THE JOB, SIRE! I'M RIGHT ON TARGET!
MAKE CERTAIN THIS TIME! BLAST THEM OUT OF THE SKY!


IN THE ELECTRONIC GUNSIGHT, THE LIGHT PLANE APPEARS LIKE A HELPLESS MOTH-- AWAITING SUDDEN DESTRUCTION...
STEADY-- STEADY--
NOW!


BUT, A FRACTION OF AN INSTANT BEFORE THE TRIGGER IS PRESSED, THE VIEW-SCREEN GOES BLANK! ITS TARGET VANISHES FROM SIGHT... THE ASTONISHED GUNNER STARES AT AN EMPTY SKY...
WHA--!?
POP!

THEN--

I-IT VANISHED SIRE! TH-THE TARGET SIMPLY--VANISHED!

FOOLS! DUNDERHEADS! IDIOTS! YOU ALLOWED THEM TO ESCAPE! I'LL HAVE YOUR HIDES FOR THIS!

BUT IKARIS IS AN ETERNAL, SIRE... THEY'RE NEVER SHORT OF TRICKS!

NO, THEY'RE NOT... ETERNALS ARE CLEVER AND TALENTED! BUT WE DEVIANTS ARE RELENTLESS IN PURSUIT!

WE'LL FIND IKARIS AGAIN! MEANWHILE, CONTINUE ON OUR PRESENT COURSE. WE HAVE A JOB TO DO-- IN NEW YORK!

WHERE ONLY ASTRONAUTS ARE TRAINED TO TRAVEL, IKARIS HAS TAKEN THE SAME PATH WITH AN EASE UNKNOWN TO MAN-- THE PLANE IS NOW ENCAPSULATED TO SHIELD IT, IN REGIONS WHERE IT WAS NEVER MEANT TO FLY...

YOU'RE TAKING THIS WELL, MARGO. YOU HAVE COURAGE!

I-I'M JUST TOO PETRIFIED T-TO SHOW MY FRIGHT!

THE RATE OF SPEED IS ENORMOUS-- THE CAPSULE COVERS THOUSANDS OF MILES IN FLEETING SECONDS...

NEW YORK!

W-WE'RE DESCENDING... W-WHERE ARE WE HEADED FOR?

NEW YORK!? B-BUT DAD AND I HAVE A HOME IN DENVER... I-I THOUGHT YOU WOULD TAKE ME--

I INTENDED TO TAKE YOU THERE-- BUT A MENTAL PROBE OF THE DEVIANTS IN THAT AIRCRAFT HAS CHANGED MY MIND...

TRUST ME, MARGO. YOU SHALL BE COMFORTABLE AND SAFE--



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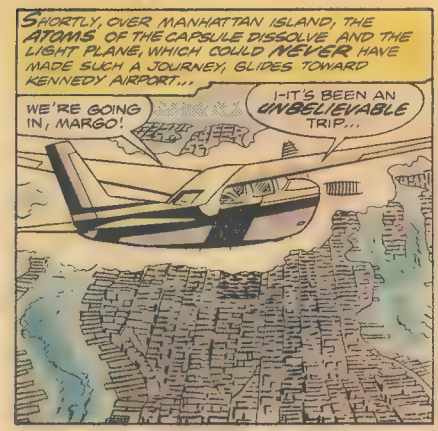
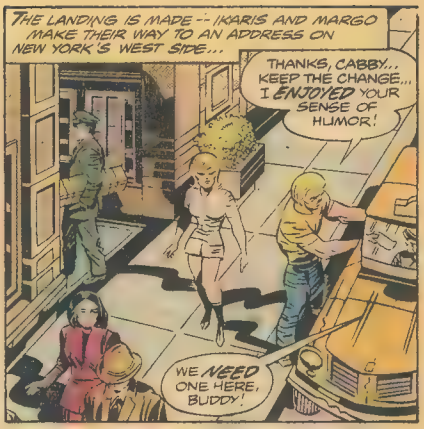
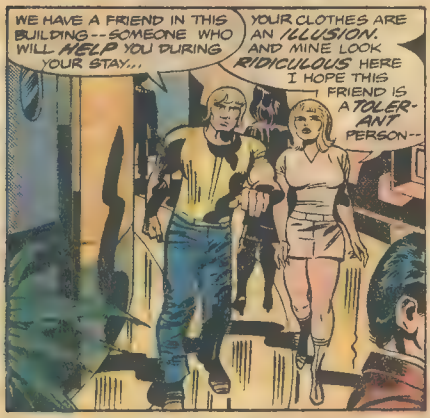
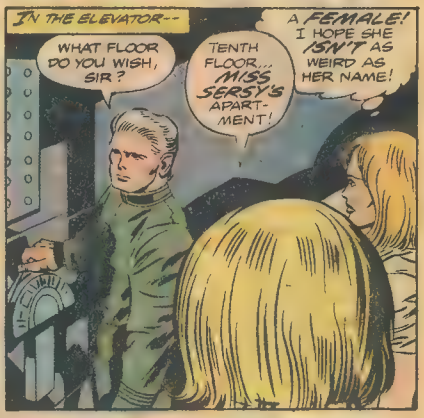
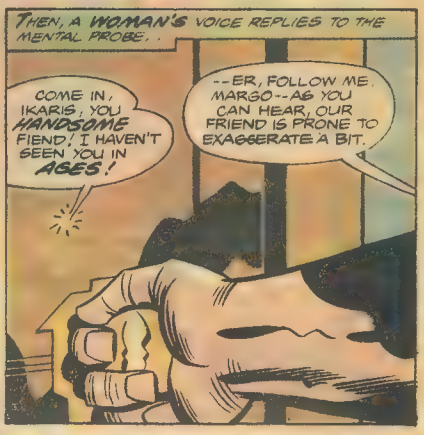

SHORTLY, OVER MANHATTAN ISLAND, THE ATOMS OF THE CAPSULE DISSOLVE AND THE LIGHT PLANE, WHICH COULD NEVER HAVE MADE SUCH A JOURNEY, GLIDES TOWARD KENNEDY AIRPORT...
WE'RE GOING IN, MARGO!
I-IT'S BEEN AN UNBELIEVABLE TRIP...


THE LANDING IS MADE -- IKARIS AND MARGO MAKE THEIR WAY TO AN ADDRESS ON NEW YORK'S WEST SIDE...
THANKS, CABBY... KEEP THE CHANGE... I ENJOYED YOUR SENSE OF HUMOR!
WE NEED ONE HERE, BUDDY!


WE HAVE A FRIEND IN THIS BUILDING -- SOMEONE WHO WILL HELP YOU DURING YOUR STAY...
YOUR CLOTHES ARE AN ILLUSION. AND MINE LOOK RIDICULOUS HERE I HOPE THIS FRIEND IS A TOLERANT PERSON--


IN THE ELEVATOR--
WHAT FLOOR DO YOU WISH, SIR?
TENTH FLOOR... MISS SERSY'S APARTMENT!
A FEMALE! I HOPE SHE ISN'T AS WEIRD AS HER NAME!

IKARIS AND MARGO ARE SOON AT THE APARTMENT DOOR -- BUT INSTEAD OF RINGING THE BELL, IKARIS SENDS A THOUGHT WAVE THROUGH THE DOOR
H-HE'S GONE INTO SOME KIND OF TRANCE-- BUT WHY--?


THEN, A WOMAN'S VOICE REPLIES TO THE MENTAL PROBE...
COME IN, IKARIS, YOU HANDSOME FIEND! I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN AGES!
--ER, FOLLOW ME, MARGO -- AS YOU CAN HEAR, OUR FRIEND IS PRONE TO EXAGGERATE A BIT.

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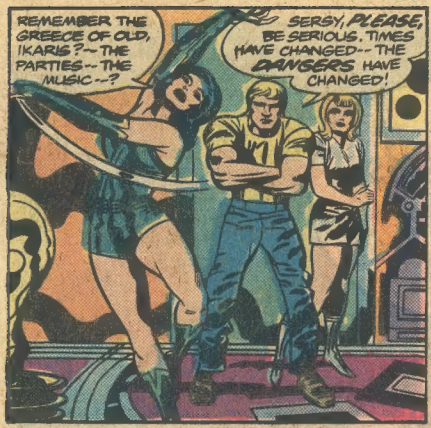
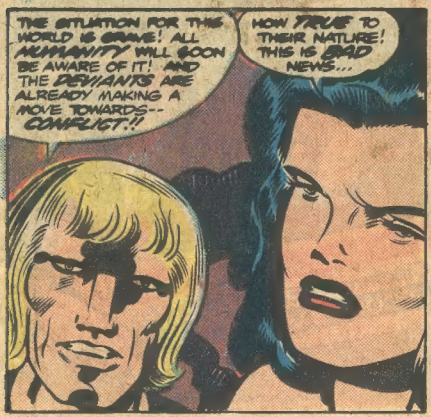
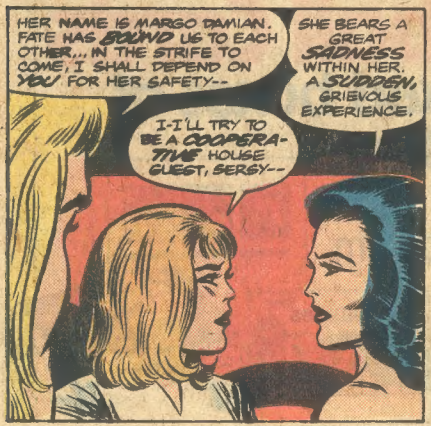

REMEMBER THE GREECE OF OLD, IKARIS?--THE PARTIES--THE MUSIC--?
SERGY, PLEASE, BE SERIOUS. TIMES HAVE CHANGED--THE DANSERS HAVE CHANGED!

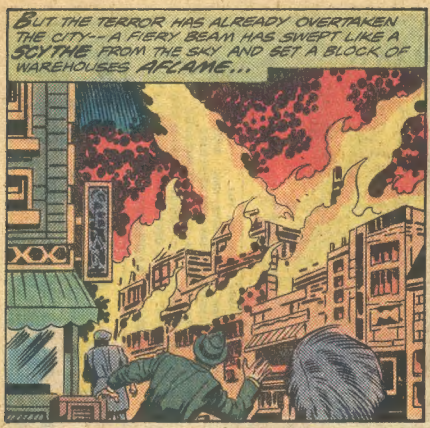
SO, YOU'VE BROUGHT THIS GIRL TO ME--TO PLACE HER UNDER MY PROTECTION...
I'VE BEEN TO THE INCA RUINS IN THE ANDES, SERGY--THE SPACE GODS HAVE RETURNED!
I CAN READ YOUR THOUGHTS, IKARIS!

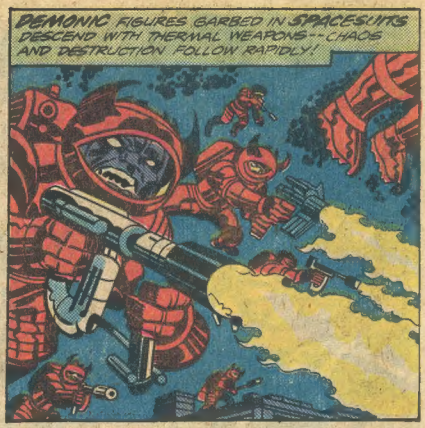

THE SITUATION FOR THIS WORLD IS GRAVE! ALL HUMANITY WILL SOON BE AWARE OF IT! AND THE DEVIANTS ARE ALREADY MAKING A MOVE TOWARDS--CONFLICT!!
HOW TRUE TO THEIR NATURE! THIS IS BAD NEWS...

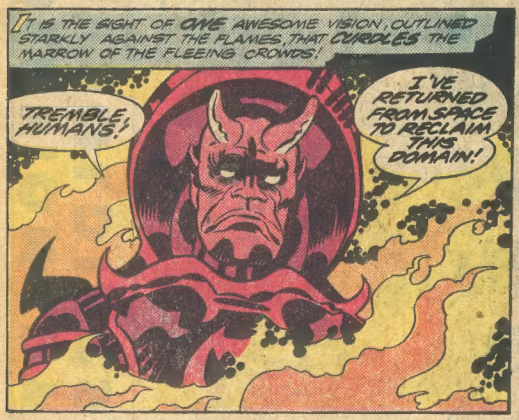
THAT'S WHY YOU'VE COME HERE... THE DEVIANTS HAVE CHOSEN NEW YORK FOR THEIR FIRST STRIKE!
I SHALL BE HERE WHEN THE DEVIANTS ARRIVE... BUT FIRST, I MUST PLACE THIS HUMAN IN YOUR CHARGE!
IKARIS, LISTEN--

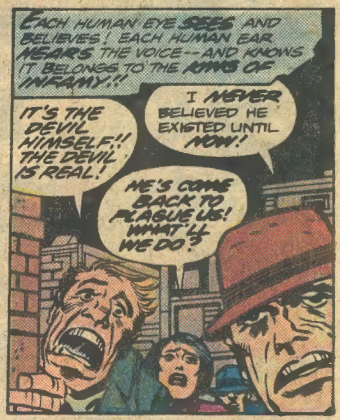

HER NAME IS MARGO DAMIAN. FATE HAS BOUND US TO EACH OTHER... IN THE STRIFE TO COME, I SHALL DEPEND ON YOU FOR HER SAFETY--
SHE BEARS A GREAT SADNESS WITHIN HER. A SUDDEN, GRIEVOUS EXPERIENCE.
I-I'LL TRY TO BE A COOPERATIVE HOUSE GUEST, SERGY--

BE GENTLE WITH HER--MARGO IS IN NEED OF A KIND FRIEND.
I MUST LEAVE. THE DEVIANTS WILL BE UPON THIS CITY IN MOMENTS.
THE FATES BE WITH YOU, IKARIS--THE FATES BE WITH US ALL!
GO, THEN! GIVE THE ROTTEN LITTLE MONSTERS WHAT THEY WELL DESERVE!

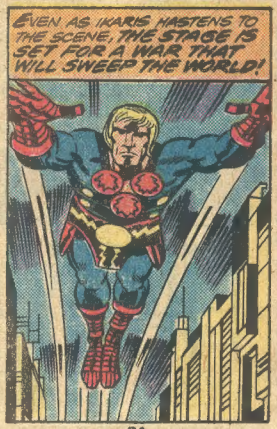

BUT THE TERROR HAS ALREADY OVERTAKEN THE CITY-- A FIERY BEAM HAS SWEPT LIKE A SCYTHE FROM THE SKY AND SET A BLOCK OF WAREHOUSES AFLAME...


DEMONIC FIGURES GARBED IN SPACESUITS DESCEND WITH THERMAL WEAPONS--CHAOS AND DESTRUCTION FOLLOW RAPIDLY!


IT IS THE SIGHT OF ONE AWESOME VISION, OUTLINED STARKLY AGAINST THE FLAMES, THAT CURDLES THE MARROW OF THE FLEEING CROWDS!
TREMBLE, HUMANS!
I'VE RETURNED FROM SPACE TO RECLAIM THIS DOMAIN!


EACH HUMAN EYE SEES AND BELIEVES! EACH HUMAN EAR HEARS THE VOICE--AND KNOWS IT BELONGS TO THE KING OF INFAMY!!
IT'S THE DEVIL HIMSELF!! THE DEVIL IS REAL!
I NEVER BELIEVED HE EXISTED UNTIL NOW!
HE'S COME BACK TO PLAGUE US! WHAT'LL WE DO?

THERE IS FEAR, AND THERE IS PANIC! YET IN MANY THERE IS ALSO ANGER!
HE DOESN'T FRIGHTEN ME! I SAY WE CAN LICK 'IM AND SEND HIM BACK INTO SPACE!
IF IT'S A FIGHT HE WANTS, THEN HE'LL GET ONE!


EVEN AS IKARIS HASTENS TO THE SCENE, THE STAGE IS SET FOR A WAR THAT WILL SWEEP THE WORLD!

NEXT ISSUE:
ETERNAL VERSUS DEVIANT!!!
AND MORE OF THE GODS!
THE MOST SPECTACULAR BATTLE EVER FOUGHT IN A MARVEL COMIC!
--AGAIN--
NIGHT OF THE DEMONS!

# ETERNAL UTTERINGS

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP, 575 MADISON AVE. N.Y.C. 10022

**As is the case with magy the third issue of a new title, we are at last able to present your views on our first issue. And so, without further delay, we yield the floor to our correspondent from Cresskill. Take it away, Ralph!**

Dear Jack,

Once again, the seeds of cosmic creativity have borne fruit, and we have been privileged to participate in the premiere of a new excursion into myth by the master mythologist himself, Jack Kirby. Let's hope the lifespan of THE ETERNALS is far longer than the brilliant, though aborted fourth world project of several years ago. Evidently, Jack intends to probe deeply into the reasons for human life on Earth, a question which has occupied the thoughts of great men since the dawn of memory. And with this new book, he's created the perfect vehicle for exploration. I sense the start of an epic containing many chapters buried in the past, which—as things are brought to light—will serve as the focus for many a provocative storyline. With THE ETERNALS being published monthly, there will be no need to pack the entire history of the three races into the first five issues. Jack can and should take his time, letting the saga unfold at an unhurried pace, and giving us ample opportunity to become familiar with the major figures and their relationship to the overall picture. If Jack does this, I'm sure this new title will adequately pick up the torch where the other gods dropped it.

Much as I'm pleased with THE ETERNALS, there is a matter inherent in their design which is as important as the publication itself. I'm referring to this new concept being fit into the already overcrowded Marvel Universe. I'm sure there'll be many a gleam in fannish eyes over the prospect of Spider-Man or the Thing teaming with Ikaris and fighting Deviants in New York. But I firmly believe, after much thought, that the Earth inhabited by the Eternals should not be the Earth of the Marvel Super-Heroes. In fact, it's imperative they be kept separate. In this new series, Jack is going to be answering many of the questions about the *why's* of human existence and purpose on this planet, which is all well and good; but even if the answers do not contradict already established laws of the Marvel Universe, they will severely limit any possible storylines which might deal with the creation of Man and his reason for being here. In the Marvel World, the truly Big Questions should be left reasonably open to allow for sufficient latitude in storytelling. If you graft the new Kirby-mythos onto the Marvel mythos, you're asking for inevitable contradictions that will destroy two of the most important elements that make Marvel, Marvel: continuity and verisimilitude. And I feel that if we go off in this direction, Marvel is going to find its space/time continuum unalterably locked up in the future.

Now that I've presented what I consider the major problem, let me try and give you some solution to this mess. I think it would be in the best interest of both Jack Kirby and the rest of Marvel to set the Eternals on a parallel Earth that hopefully does not have carbon copies of the Fantastic Four, Avengers, etc. In this way, Jack would be allowed to utilize his imagination to the fullest extent, populating his own special world with as many characters and concepts as he saw fit—in effect, creating an entire super-structure that does not have to mesh with already established Marvel Law. At the same time, the Marvel Universe would be free to continue evolving without being forced to align itself to a whole new series of unexpected constants that would limit its growth and stagnate it. Ordinarily, I would not ask that this be done, but in the case of ETERNALS, there are bound to be many things that Jack will want to touch on that will already have been answered in other Marvel books, and this will hurt his work as much as Marvel's overall continuity. Even this issue, on page 15, Jack intimated that the lost city of Lemuria was a Deviant outpost which had fallen in times past when attacked by the "Gods." This already is perilously close to playing havoc with the Hyborian Age/Marvel Universe set-up which has nicely made it possible for Sub-Mariner's realm to exist alongside of sunken Lemuria. I'm sure you see the trouble here. Before things get botched up beyond repair, please keep the world of the Eternals separate from the Marvel Universe, and let each evolve separately.

I know I've been somewhat long-winded, but continuity is what's made Marvel so different from all other comics, and I want that to continue in the future. Please consider the matter.

And let me wish Jack Kirby the best of luck on what may be his most ambitious undertaking yet. May Ikaris never get a case of warts from Brother Tode.

Ralph Macchio
188 Wilson Drive
Cresskill, NJ 07626

**We appreciate your concern, Ralph, but it is really doubtful that our newly-revealed race of Eternals will contradict any of the already-established Marvel Universe. But, as always, we are interested in what the rest of Marveldom Assembled thinks. So let us know, hear?**

Dear Jack,

At last THE ETERNALS are with us. I found the premiere issue to be interesting and full of promise. Celestial visitation has always been an intriguing hypothesis for explaining Earth's history. The opening installment of THE ETERNALS was very well written. The scenes moved with a constant flow and were paced just right. Nowhere did the story seem rushed or bogged down. The anticipation that the book closes with at the coming of the gods was a nice touch. The artwork was your usual greatness, but what makes me excited about THE ETERNALS is that along with the great visuals, there is an interesting and innovative plotline. I think that with this new book, Jack, both you and Marvel have another hit. Keep up the good work.

Bill Dickenson
5930 W. Broadway #8
Crystal, MN 55428

Dear Marvel,

I've just finished reading the first issue of THE ETERNALS, and—in spite of all that Kirby's done in the past few years—I have to admit I was awe-struck. THE ETERNALS was *that* good!

The concept, the locale, the characters, the dialogue, even the artwork was the best I've seen from Jack since his fourth world series. I very seldom get so excited over a comic that I'm compelled to write a letter, but THE ETERNALS is fantastic!

My only hope is that Jack doesn't get carried away with the cute names, or throw in ridiculous supporting characters. And I do hope the Eternals stay in their own universe and away from the other Marvel heroes.

Good luck with this new classic!

Dennis Millard
13 Whitney Avenue
Southington, CT 06489

**NEXT ISSUE: As if old New York didn't have enough problems, now they have to face Kro and his band of Deviant-demons! Is this the beginning of a war that man will not survive? You must not miss "NIGHT OF THE DEMONS!" It all happens in just thirty short days, so join us then in ETERNALS #4...for the sake of the gods.**

scanned by *Wizard*